RAJYA SABHA

Thursday, the 20th August 1987/ 29Sravana, 1909 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock **THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN** in the Chair.

Felicitations to the Prime Minister on his Birthday

THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): Madam, we convey hearty greetings to Prime Minister on his birthday.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA (Andhra Pradesh): On behalf of all of us, I wish the Prime Minister many happy returns of the day.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: (West Bengal): Many happy returns.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI (Maharashtra): It is from all of us.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: I said, "On behalf of all of us".

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Many happy returns of the day.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY (Tamil Nadu): Happy and prosperous life.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI): I thank you, Madam, Deputy Chairman, and I would like to thank the whole House also.

कमारी सईदा खातून (मध्य प्रदेश) :

प्रधान मत्री जी,

तुम जियो कयामत तक,

और कयामत खुदा करे कभी न हो।

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Loan Mela in Tripura

*341. SHRI NARAYAN KAR:†
SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) wether Government propose to organise a Loan Mela in Tripura;

(b) if so, what are the criteria for selecting the beneficiaries;

(c) what is the agency involved in selecting the beneficiaries; and

(d) whether the Government of Tripura have any role in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

Bank hold credit camps at various places, demanding upon the need and requirements of the area as a part of their overall programme for accelerated credit flow to weaker sections. The United Bank of India, the convener bank for the State level Bankers' Committee for Tripura, has informed that with a view to accelerate the flow of bank credit to weaker sections in Tripura, it intends to organise a few credit camps in that State in near future. The State authorities are always involved in the identification of beneficiaries in programmes like Integ-

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Narayan Kar.

rated Rural Development Programme, Scheme for providing Self-employment to Educated Unemployed Youth.

The banks have to follow the guide lines/proceedures laid down from time to time by the Reserve Bank of India for identification of beneficiaries, appraisal, sanction and post sanction supervision of loans irrespective of the fact whether such loans are given in a credit camp or otherwise.

SHRI NARAYAN KAR: Madam Deputy Chairman, the Chairman of the United Bank of India went to Agartala on the 10th of August and he met the Bank Officials of Tripura and he instructed to organise a loan *mela* in the name of accelerated credit programme.

Madam, the workers of the Congress (I) are submitting a list of beneficiaries. They have submitted forms for loan. These forms were not printed in the Government Press, but in a private press these have been printed. Accordingly, the Bank officials have been instructed to sanction the loan in their favour.

Madam on the eve of the election, it is nothing but bribe to the voters. Madam, before that the bank officials of Tripura wrote a letter to the Chief Secretary of Tripura that they were not willing to organise a loan *mela* because there would be some problem. Keeping this in mind Madam, I would like to know wether the Government is ready to stop this loan *mela* at least up to February.

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: Credit camps are held throughout the country. Even the banks are expected to hold credit camps outside the bank premises once in 15 days. The schemes which are covered under these credit camps are the IRDP the educated employment scheme and also the scheme for the urban poor, and various other schemes are there.

So far as the identification for the IRDP and the educated employment schemes are concerned, they are done by the State agencies. And so for as the submission of the applications are concerned anybody can submit an application. Even the hon. Member also can help the weaker sections by filling up the application.

So far as the holding of the credit camps is concerned that has nothing to do with the election. We are holding them everywhere. I personally went to Bihar and Orissa recently. There also credit camps are held. In Karnataka and Tamil Nadu also credit camps are held. At the cost of repetition, I have to say that it has nothing to do with the election.

SHRI NARYAN KAR: Madam, 45,000 loan proposals are pending with the nationalised banks of Tripura in which the IRDP, the ST/SC Corporation and some other agencies are involved. Is the Government ready to instruct the UBI to clear up these applications within a very short time? And is the Government ready to follow the procedure in which the IRDP beneficiaries are selected for its loan *melas*, for this loan Mela also?

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: Sir, all the procedures are followed so far as the credit camps are concerned. The IRDP beneficiaries are also given loans. Under various schemes loans are given.

So far as the involvement of the IRDP beneficiaries are concerned, we have given orders that these beneficiaries should also be

given the credit camp loans. So far as the delays in disposing of the applications are concerned, I request the State Government to expedite the submission of applications to DRDS and to the banks also. If the banks have already received the applications, then, it is the duty of the bank people to expedite those applications. I have asked the banks concerned exactly for this purpose to accelerate the flow of credit in order to avoid delay in disbursement of loans and we have given strict instructions in this regard. I have attended regional consultative committee meetings and there also they have brought to my notice that acceleration of flow of credit was not there. Recently, the State Government also held a meeting of SLVC and there also this thing was brought to my notice. We have issued instructions that the flow of credit should be accelerated in Tripura. For this very purpose accelerated programmes in the form of credit camps are held not only in Tripura but in other North-Eastern States including Assam.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Madam, I continue to believe in the personal integrity of the Minister. But it seems that his actions are responsible for generation of thousand sources of political and economic corruption. Why I say so, let me explain. I will put a question along with that. He is trying to take cover under the IRDP procedure. IRDP has a fixed target per year. These credit camps are not related to IRDP because IRDP beneficiaries are chosen in a particular manner. Why they are chosen in a particular manner? Because it was feared there will be corruption at the end of the bank employees, there will be corruption at the end of the middlemen whether it is Bofors or anything else. So, in order to obviate these kinds of things, a certain set-up was established for IRDP. These credit camps are unrelated to that. The credit forms are distributed directly from the banks. Let us congratulate the bank officers because they themselves are resisting. Although we know that their involvement in corruption is as easy as of anything and this ...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Put your supplementary.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: ...interested political people also. So my question is—for these credit *melas*—if you want to eliminate corruption, why are you not having a guideline which says that beneficiaries will be selected by a popular organisation, the *panchayats* and such arrangements which are there for IRDP? Instead of that what is that guideline contained in it?

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: Madam, I am thankful to the hon. Member for referring to the corruption. We have to eliminate corruption. For that purpose, the credit camps are held. The loans are given openly in the public to the people... (*Interruptions*). Thousands of people are coming to witness this programme. And people are educated, beneficiaries are told not to pay anything in the form of commission or bribe and they are told that the security should not be given in the case of weaker sections upto a certain limit. They are also told that no bank officer should be paid any single paisa and bank officer also should not receive anything in the form of bribe. Bank officers should also follow guidelines. They should not say, get security...

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: The point is, the procedure involved generates it.

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: Now, they give application forms not only under IRDP but under various schemes like educated self-employment scheme, a scheme for urban poor, DRI scheme and priority sector advances and the people of the country can approach the bank directly. When you are dealing with weaker sections who are uneducated and who

are not able to read our literature and other things, for that purpose, it is the responsibility of the Government to educate them. They are coming in a large number to attend these camps and in one credit camp, there are about 30,000 to 40,000 people. They are educated there and they are told there as to what the guidelines are and what the norms are. The poor people, who are not educated and who are not in a position to fill up the forms, if some social organizations or any citizen are going to help them in filling up the forms and submission of their applications to the bank, it is not a crime. If our Congress workers are going to help those people including you Mr. Nirmal Chatterjee, if you are going to help them, we will admire you also and if the Congress workers are going to involve themselves in this task... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: I am not entering into that question. You tell us what is the procedure followed and what are the guidelines?

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: The normal guidelines are: it should be for productive purposes and also that the project should be viable at the time of identification. Now, we are touching the poorest among the poor and at the time of identification, that poor man should not have the means to pay back that amount. He could be destitute even. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Who identifies?

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: Processing and sanctioning is done by the bank people and so far as IRDP and Scheme for providing Self-Employment to Educated Unemployed Youth is concerned, it is done by the State agencies and it is their responsibility.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Madam Deputy Chairman, the Government pumped crores of rupees for the development of industries but to cater to the needs of the rural population, especially the persons who are below the poverty line, to bring them above the poverty line, the Government has brought forward this scheme. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is repaying capacity for those persons who got loan, whether they are urban poor or from the rural sector and whether the Reserve Bank of India conducted any survey to know as to how many families have been brought above the poverty line through this scheme.

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: It is true that we have to lift the poor people above the poverty line. There are crores of people in this country who do not have anything to eat and in this context, I would like to submit that we are touching the poorest among the poor, particularly the destitute. Even the beggar, if he wants to live in the country and if he wants to go in for a productive purpose, he may not be in a position to live and in such circumstances, we are helping these poorest among the poor. Now, what is happening? You asked as to what we are doing. I am just telling, he may not be in a position to eat even. To such a person, we are giving aid in the form of machine. But what can he do with the machine if he is not in a position to eat? If he is not in a position to eat, can he work in that situation? For that purpose, we are giving these poorest among the poor people this aid ind I am requesting all the State Governments, all the DRDA agencies in the country that they should first touch these people. Madam, during the Sixth Five Year Plan, one crore sixty four lacs people were given Rs. 3101 crores under the IRDP programme. Also, we have given loans to the extent of Rs. 537 crores under the DRI Scheme. We have helped the educated unemployed youth to the extent of 2 lacs and odd and in the year 1986, we have sanctioned a sum of Rs. 455 crores. The question as to how many families have been brought above the poverty line

by way of these loans, I am not having the figures with me at the moment.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Madam, we are not against loans being given to the poor. But we are against the procedure being followed, the politicalisation of these loan *melas* at every place. Though the Minister has denied that the loan *melas* are linked with elections, with your permission, I would read a small portion from his own speech which is very clear in this respect. "Addressing one such meetings at Chithakola, Mr. Poojari told the villagers that failure to get Congress candidates elected would mean being against the liberal policy of bank loans to poor. He said the Government would be forced to rethink on loan *melas*."

(*Interruptions*)

Let me complete (*Interruptions*). I am coming to my question. Let me complete. (*Interruptions*). Why are they so sensitive?

श्री राम अवधश सिंह : मैं सदन के नेता से आग्रह करना चाहता हूं कि इन लोगों को रोकिए । यह बहुत गलत बात है । इन्होंने कोई आपत्तिजनक बात तो कही नहीं है । इनके भाषण का कोट किया है । आपत्तिजनक बात नहीं है... (व्यवधान) सदन के नेता कुछ बोलते ह .....(**व्यवधान**)

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Please don't save the Minister whenever there is an inconvenient thing. I am reading this because he denied there is anything to do with elections. Why do you shout? (*Interruptions*) Listen to me, there is a little more. Let me complete. Let me complete. Let him deny. I am quoting from his speech. (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Put your supplementary. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: ..."some people pointed out that in that area"... (*Interruptions*) Is there nobody to control them? What is this? Why do you shout at every inconvenient thing? It is quite unfair. (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order, please. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: You must control them. You cannot conduct the proceedings like this. (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order, please. Now, no noise in the House. Please put your question Mr. Upendra. You cannot go on quoting like this.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Why can't I quote? It is relevant to the question.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am allowing you. Put your supplementary. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: It is relevant because I am linking it with the Minister's statement. (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You continue. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: "...when some people pointed out that in that area there was no candidate contesting on Congress ticket, he was surprised and promised to make an enquiry as to how the Congress did not field candidates and asked the gathering to vote any candidate who is contesing against the Janata Party." That is why, I would ask the hon. Minister whether he will stop politicalisation of the loan *melas* and stop behaving like an agent of the Moghal Emperor distributing largesse in various States. (*Interruptions*) While he also. ... (*Interruptions*) Does he need your help? (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please, sit down.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: You control them. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: I have every right to ask the Prime Minister to make a statement on this. (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order, please. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: It is unparliamentary. There cannot be any allegation in a supplementary. (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Enough of it. Please now be quiet. If there is anything unparliamentary, I will go through the records and remove it from there. Please, sit down now. (*Interruptions*) Order, please. (*Interruptions*) Be quiet, please. (*Interruptions*). Mr. Upendra, you now finish soon.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Part (b) of my question is, has the Minister taken note of the observations of the Reserve Bank of India on the loan *melas* and also the strictures passed by the Central Vigilance Commission?

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: So far as the statement which has been made by the hon. Member regarding my speech is concerned, I respectfully submit that it is not correctly reported. So far as that publication is concerned, I think that has been published by the Janata Party of Karnataka ...

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: This is a cutting from a newspaper.

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: ... and for your information the name of the printing press is not there. The honourable Member, Shri Nirmal Chatterjee, spoke about Bofors. I agree that you are a crusader against corruption. Why cannot you find out who has paid for the publication of that?...

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: That is irrelevant.

SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ: Who has published this costly book? Where from has the money come?

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: This publication was published by the Janata Party of Karnataka, not by the Government.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gurupadaswamy, do you want to ask a question?

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: No, he has cast aspersions on the Government of Karnataka. I wanted to say what he was saying was wrong, totally wrong; it is misleading the House.

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: I never misled the House. I am not going to mislead the House. I have said it is done by Karnataka Janata Party. And I have said the name of the printing press is not there on it. It is an offence...

DR. BAPU KALDATE: You prosecute them.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Why don't you prosecute them?

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: In fact, I have been criticised throughout the country day in and day out, inside and outside Parliament, for wording the credit terms. Even during the election that was the issue. Then I asked the people: You are our masters. Government is established by the weaker sections. You are in majority, not the rich people who are very few in number. It is for you to give the verdict as to whether the Government of Rajiv Gandhi is doing the correct thing or not. The honourable Member, Shri Upendra, has put a very relevant question saying that we are taking political advantage. Whenever there is something good, you want to take political advantage and when there is something wrong, you blow it out of proportion and bring a bad name to Government. When we are doing good things and when the measure is popu-

lar with the masses, with the weaker sections, why cannot we take advantage of it, when you are doing the same thing? When we are doing good, why are you jealous of it?...

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: A very candid admission; thank you, Mr. Minister.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Thank you, Mr. Minister for your admission.

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: When we are helping the weaker sections, when there is an accelerated flow of credit, if you are interested in the weaker sections, I would have understood if you had made representations to the Government, to the Prime Minister, that more funds should go to the weaker sections. I would have understood it and I would have appreciated it. But that is not your point. Instead, when we are giving more funds to the weaker sections, all this resistance is coming. Now, about guidelines, we are following strictly the guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India. We are not violating them. No bank officer is violating them. On the contrary, we tell them, that they should not get security and surety also These are the things. We are asking them not to take a single paisa and we are also advising the people not to give a single paisa to the bank officers.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: What about the second part of my question He has not answered my second point. Madam, the Reserve Bank's Report and the Central Vigilance Commission's observations ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: It has become a Congress (I) mela...(*Interruptions*)... The loan melas have become Congress (I) melas ... (*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order, please...(*Interruptions*)... Now, it is about 25 minutes that we have spent on one question ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: But he has not answered my question...(*Interruptions*)... He has not answered the second part of my question...(*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No; he has answered...(*Interruptions*)... He has answered. I have called the next Question...(*Interruptions*)... I am sorry. Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta has to put a question now on this. He will now put the question and then we will proceed to the next Question...(*Interruptions*).

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: He has not answered my question. How can you say that he has answered?...(*Interruptions*)... The second part he has not answered...(*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No; he has answered...(*Interruptions*).

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): Madam, just a minute...(*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All right, if you want to say something.

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: The Reserve Bank of India has conducted a study and the Reserve Bank has said:

> 'The one view is that the loan mela is a useful method of identifying the borrowers and eliminating the possibiliy of the borrowers complaining that they have not been given the loans or that they have received less."

They have also stated:

> "It has been observed that the melas do generate an awareness among the rural folk about the various types of assistance under

the priority sector schemes available to them from the banking system."

They have also stated that they have found out certain deficiencies and we are looking into them ... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: He has not replied properly... (*Interruptions*)... This is misleading ... (*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This is not a discussion, Mr. Upendra... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: This is not the observation of the Reserve Bank of India... (*Interruptions*)... This is misleading.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have put a question and he has given the answer... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: I will quote what the Reserve Bank of India has said. He is making a wrong statement... (*Interruptions*)... He is making a wrong statement... (*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Nothing of what Mr. Upendra says will go on record. Please sit down... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: *

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down, Mr. Upendra. You are not following the procedure... (*Interruptions*)...You are defying the Chair ... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: *

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. I am not allowing you... (*Interruptions*)... Please sit down. I am on my legs... (*Interruptions*)... All of you, please sit down. You see, Mr. Upendra, you asked certain questions and he has given the answer. You may be satisfied or you may not be satisfied. That is a different thing. But you cannot go on saying that he is making a wrong statement ... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI RAM AWADESH SINGH: He cannot mislead the House... (*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Upendra, you have asked questions (a) and (b) and he has answered your questions (a) and (b). Now, is there anything else remaining for him to answer? He has already answered your questions.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: I mentioned... (*Interruptions*)... Let me say now... (*Interruptions*)... I referred...

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Madam, I am on a point of order... (*Interruptions*)... Madam, I am on a point of order relating to him.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down, Mr. Kulkarni. I have allowed him.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: I mentioned an adverse comment of the Reserve Bank of India whereas he has taken the favourable comment of the Reserve Bank of India. That is my point... (*Interruptions*) ... I want to read out one sentence only to show that he is misleading the House ... (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Do you know that this is the Question Hour? Do you know that a Question Hour is?... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Only one sentence I want to read out... (*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Is this a discussion? Is this a debate?... (*Interruptions*).

*Not recorded.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: He is misleading... (*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No. There is no question. I will find out whether he is misleading or not... (*Interruptions*). I will find out whether he is misleading or not... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: No, Madam... (*Interruptions*) ...Only one sentence... (*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will go through the records... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Madam, I am on a point of order.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Before you I have allowed Mr. Kulkarni. Yes, Mr. Kulkarni, you have to be very brief.

AN HON. MEMBER: There is no point of order during Question Hour... (*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, you are right. No point of order during Question Hour. You are very right. Now, we will proceed to the next Question... (*Interrruptions*).

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Let me put the record straight. I will read out one sentence... (*Interruptions*)... Only one sentence I will read out to point out how he has misled ...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It will not go on record. You are not listening to the Chair... (*Interruptions*)... You are not listening to the Chair. I said that I will go through the record. If he is misleading. I can always ask him to correct it and you can write to the Minister also... (*Interruptions*)...Mr. Upendra, what you say will not go on record and I am not allowing you... (*Interruptions*). You write to the Minister. (*Interruptions*). If it is misleading, you write to the Minister that it is misleading.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I must respectfully submit to you that I am not against loan *melas*. Rather I would like more loan *melas* to take place. The point is that credit-deposit ratio in our country is low and it is the lowest in West Bengal. Madam, the point is as to how to select the beneficiaries. I am referring to a Survey recently conducted may be by the Reserve Bank of India wherein it is stated that in spite of the loan *melas* under the various schemes, poverty and indebtedness among the toiling folk who are the lowest and for whom he has sympathy, is on the rise. Despite the anti-poverty programmes, poverty among the down-below is on the rise. Therefore, my apprehension is that the procedure of selection is wrong. Otherwise, how is it that the benefit of these programmes has not trickled down to the down-bottom? Madam, there have been complaints from the bank people.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please put your question now.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: There have been complaints from the bank officers that thousands of applications are being disposed of within hours. Madam, the applications are being disposed of in such a short time that it is impossible to identify the actual beneficiaries. Therefore, I would like to ask the Minister whether he would like to appoint popular committees at different levels consisting of elected Members of *Panchayats*, Members of Parliament and Members of the Legislative Assemblies in order to avoid complaints and in order to identify the real beneficiaries. Those representatives may act as watchdog to see ...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please put your question.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: ...that the benefits goes down to the people. My complaint is that his sympathy is like shedding crocodile tears because it is not going down to down-bottom.

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: The hon. Member has made some suggestions. The District Committees are there at the district level and the M.Ps. and M.L.As. are also involved.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: The West Bengal Government has complained that it has not been involved and the M.L.As. and M.Ps. have not been invited.

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: Wherever they are not involved, they bring to our notice.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: None of us is invited. I have not been invited.

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: I will bring it to the notice of the State Government and ask them as to why they are not involved.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: The State Government itself has not been consulted. That is the point.

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: We will find out that also. I will write to the State Government definitely. About the procedure and also about the time taken for processing, sufficient time is given. Where sufficient time is not given, you can bring to our notice. Nobody can say that we should not follow the guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India. We are for them. But, at the same time, I am surprised, I am also pained to say that so far as the weaker sections are concerned, I can understand some rightist people talking like this but why should you people, those who are here for the poor people, so particular, when we are giving to the weaker sections of the people. Why are you not so particular when the bank people are giving to the other people... (*Interruptions*) Why are you asking about all this when it is given to the poor people? (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question No. 342.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: Madam, I would like to just supplement what my esteemed colleague has said. My hon. friend, while putting that question mentioned some survey report of the Reserve Bank of India. I do not know what particular survey report he has mentioned ...

SHRI GURUDASU DAS GUPTA: I said, maybe from the Reserve Bank.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: You say 'maybe'. I would be very thankful if I get a copy of that report.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I will produce the paper cutting. It appeared in a responsible newspaper.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: I understand.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You can send it

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: Madam, may I bring to the attention of the hon. Member that all reports, surveys and other studies made by different State Governments including West Bengal, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh testify to the fact that the incidence of poverty has gone down? The number of people who have come above the poverty line is there in the Planning Commission report. And the number of those who are below the poverty-line has gone down from 47 per cent. to 37 per cent. It is already there in the 7th Plan document.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: If you permit me, Madam, that Planning Commission statement has been questioned by the Chairman of the National Sample Survey Organisation...

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: It may be possible that the figures might be wrong for West Bengal. (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. Question No. 342.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Mr. Minister, that Planning Commission document is secret, you are secretive even on economy...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down.

Maharashtra's share in Excise Duty on Electricity

*342. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV:†
SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA JAYAWANTRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Union Excise Duty of two paise per kw/h on electricity generated was levied by Government with effect from 1st March, 1978 as a part of the budget proposals for 1978-79;

(b) if so, how much amount was paid back to State Governments; and

(c) what was the share of Maharashtra in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A total amount of Rs. 906.17 crores was paid to the States during the period 1979-80 to 1984-85.

(c) The share of Maharashtra out of the above amount was Rs. 131.57 crores.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Madam Deputy Chairman, I would like to ask the hon. Minister through you whether it is not a fact that the Seventh Finance Commission recommended that for the years 1979-80 to 1983-84 the entire net proceeds on Union excise on generation of electricity should be paid out of the Consolidated Fund of India to each State in an amount equal to the collection attributable to that State and the Government of India accepted this recommendation along with other recommendations. The Union Duties of Excise (Electricity Distribution) Act, 1980 prescribes the percentage of shares of the State in the proceeds from levy which is based more or less on the estimates of the net revenue furnished by the Seventh Finance Commission. Accordingly, I would like to ask one thing. For the period 1979-80 to 1983-84, Rs. 148.20 crores have been collected from the Maharashtra State. How much of that is paid back to the State and how much is remaining as arrears?

SHRI B. K. GADHVI: Madam, Deputy Chairman, in 1978 when this duty was imposed, it was a gross error of judgment on the part of that Government at that time that they did no visualise as to what would be the ramifications or the repercussions. Therefore, again, after some months, they referred this matter back to the Seventh Finance Commission to find out as to what should be the net devolution or attributable devolution. And therefore the Finance Commission evolved a formula and under that formula evolved by the Finance Commission the disbursement is being made. As a matter of fact, Rs. 13 crores are still recoverable from the State of Maharashtra for the period 1979—82, but we are not presently pressing it very much.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Vithalrao Madhavrao Jadhav.